Income of small and marginal Farmers

1595. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state;

(a) whether the debt burden on poor and marginal farmers is increasing and sourcing of their income decreasing day by day in the country;

(b) if so, the details of average income annually of poor and marginal farmers in each State/UT as on date and also of annual debt;

(c) whether Government propose to write off agricultural loan at least up to 10,000 rupees; if so, the details thereof; if not, the reasons therefore; and

(d) what schemes Government propose to give financial relief to poor farmers in the country in 2005-06?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Drought assistance to Andhra Pradesh

1596. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various schemes and facilities provided to farmers affected by continuous drought;

(b) the details of budget released, scheme-wise for 2001-2002, 2002-2003 and 2003-2004, district-wise and Mandal-wise in Andhra Pradesh, to save the farmers from worst crises, due to continuous drought; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not releasing any budget or any special package schemes, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The Government of India provides relief assistance in the wake of natural calamities, including drought, from Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF), to the State Governments who are responsible for district-wise allocation. Release of Central Share of CRF to Andhra Pradesh and

assistance provided to the State from NCCF for the drought of 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 are indicated below:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Central share released	Assistance from NCCF
2001-02	155.97	—
2002-03	163.77	123.51
2003-04	171.96	50.58

Agricultural growth

1597. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to develop on a large scale, post harvest management technologies in Agriculture to give a fillip to overall growth of the economy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what other measures are being considered for achieving and surfacing high agriculture growth which, as per present estimate is likely to come down during 2004-05?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has, during the Xth Plan expanded the programmes of the All India Coordinated Research Project on Post Harvest Technology at 33 Centres all over the country, to develop technologies for reducing post harvest losses, add value to the agricultural produce and utilize by-products with a view to enhance farmers' income and rural employment, thereby, giving a fillip to the overall growth of the economy.

The project is aimed at:—

1. Adoption/development of need based technologies for reduction in post harvest losses of crops, livestock produce and fish;

2. Development of need based agro-processing centres;